

INDONESIA

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express deep concern over the continuing human rights abuses in Indonesia. This week I chaired a Congressional Human Rights Caucus briefing in which expert witnesses from Indonesia showed photographic evidence and reported on the situation facing their people.

Attacks on ethnic and religious minorities, particularly Chinese minorities, are continuing, and in some instances appear to be orchestrated. Ninety-five churches have been burned or destroyed since May of last year. One photograph showed a security officer standing by while a person's decapitated head was paraded around on a stick.

Violence and human rights abuses continue in regions. Rape victims from last year's riots are intimidated. Churches and mosques are burned. Christians and Muslims from rural communities are afraid to return to their destroyed homes.

Madam Speaker, I urge the Indonesian government to immediately take steps to protect the fundamental human rights of all people in Indonesia, promptly bring to justice all individuals violating those rights.

DEMOCRATS WANT TO SAVE
SOCIAL SECURITY

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, we in the Congress have an historic opportunity to save the twin pillars of retirement security, Social Security and Medicare. We have this opportunity because of a strong economy in this country that has resulted in a Federal surplus for the first time in three decades. At this historic juncture, Democrats propose to do what is right: save Social Security and Medicare while we have the financial ability to do so.

Republicans, on the other hand, want to give a one-time tax break that flies in the face of fiscal responsibility. It is a shortsighted plan. It will not save Social Security and Medicare. It gives a 10 percent tax break to those, most of whom are wealthy in this country. The lion's share of the plan goes to people making more than \$300,000 a year. Middle-class families would get back less than \$100.

As one of their own said in today's Congress Daily, "A 10 percent cut means nothing for most taxpayers." Democrats are for tax cuts, tax cuts that are targeted to middle-class families. The Democratic plan will save Social Security and Medicare, and give

tax relief to the people who need it most.

INTRODUCING LEGISLATION TO
PREVENT EXPANSION OF AMERICAN
MILITARY INTERVENTION
WITHOUT CONGRESSIONAL
APPROVAL

(Mr. PAUL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, we have troops in 144 countries of the world today. President Clinton has announced that he will now send troops to Kosovo. We are bombing in Iraq on a daily basis. We have been in Bosnia now for three years, although we were supposed to be there for six months. We should not go into Kosovo; we should not go there, absolutely, without congressional approval.

I have introduced legislation that will prevent the President from sending troops to further expand our intervention around the world without congressional approval. This is very, very important. We are spending so much money on intervention in so many countries around the world at the same time our national defense is being diminished. Worst of all, the President is planning to put these thousands of troops under a British commander.

It is time we took it upon ourselves to exert our authority to restrain the President in spreading troops around the world.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT INTER-
VENTION IN HIGH TECHNOLOGY
INDUSTRY MAY BE DETRI-
MENTAL TO CONSUMERS

(Mr. INSLEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, my district includes Redmond, Washington, the home of Microsoft.

Madam Speaker, the true beneficiaries of the Internet explosion are consumers. They know it. A recent Wirthlin poll found that 81 percent of the public believes that Microsoft has benefited consumers. The reasons are clear. Microsoft is the leader and perhaps the most dynamic, creative, and productive industry in the history of the world. Technology is improving, prices are falling, and more people own a computer today than ever have before. The innovative people in Microsoft are a major reason for this.

The Federal Government should be cautious before it intervenes in this enterprising industry. The American people are reluctant to allow the government to control the industry because it provides cheaper, more useful products every day without government intervention.

We must not forget that the goal of our laws ought to be protecting the consumer, not the competition. If we focus on what is good for the consumer, the industry will continue to harness the genius of American innovation, and Microsoft will continue to serve as an engine of invention, to our mutual benefit.

IT IS TIME TO TAKE SOCIAL
SECURITY OFF-BUDGET

(Mr. HERGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HERGER. Madam Speaker, it is time we really take social security off-budget. While this Congress has worked hard to balance the budget under the manner we currently count Federal dollars, we have only done so by using the social security trust fund surplus.

Let us now raise the bar and balance the budget by walling off the social security surplus. Why should this Congress be content with a budget that is only balanced because we are borrowing from social security?

Everyone here knows it is morally wrong to use the social security surplus to mask our deficit, and our constituents know it, as well. Let us end this shell game. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support my legislation, which will wall off social security by removing it from the unified budget calculations.

WHY DO REPUBLICANS WANT TO
GIVE TAX CUTS TO THE
WEALTHY INSTEAD OF PRO-
TECTING AND EXPANDING MEDI-
CARE WITH THE BALANCE OF
THE SURPLUS?

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks and include therein extraneous material.)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I have been pleased to hear some of my Republican colleagues express a willingness to go along with President Clinton's plan to devote 62 percent of the budget surplus to social security. But what I cannot understand is why they would rather take the rest of the surplus and give a tax break to the wealthy, instead of protecting and even expanding Medicare so that it covers prescription drugs.

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Before I was elected to public office, I served as director of the Illinois Council of Senior Citizens, and I learned a lot about how hard it can be to grow old in America. Making ends meet on Social Security is not easy, even if one is pretty healthy. But if someone has high blood pressure or diabetes or heart disease or cancer, they